

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title to read as follows:

--~~DEVICE AND~~ METHOD FOR SHAPING SEMIFINISHED PRODUCTS MADE
OF OPEN-PORED MATERIAL--

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above
line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German
Application No. 102 59 641.7 filed December 18, 2002. Applicants
also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/EP2003/013237
filed November 25, 2003. The international application under PCT
article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 1, amend paragraph 1 as follows:

--The present invention relates to ~~a device and a methods~~
for the shaping of web-like or sheet-like semifinished products
made of open-pored plastic using a multipart forming tool, whose
tool parts, which may be moved toward and away from one another,
define a cavity having at least one mold structure.--

On page 3, after line 6, insert the following:

--Furthermore, reference is made to US Patent Specification 2,768,106 for the related art, which describes a method for manufacturing an acid balloon. The acid balloon is manufactured from two thin, liquid-tight sheets made of organic plastic. The plastic sheets are clamped for this purpose between two mold parts, which define a cavity, with an elastic pressure bag positioned between them and shaped by expanding the pressure bag. The expansion of the pressure bag is performed through filling with hot water. The shaped plastic sheets are subsequently bonded to one another liquid-tight at their edges through hot sealing.

A method for manufacturing hollow bodies made of thermoplastics having long fiber and/or endless fiber reinforcement is known from DE 198 03 965 A1. In this method, an inflatable polymer bubble is positioned between two flat semifinished products made of thermoplastic. This multilayered construction is then additionally covered using two stretchable polymer films, whose melting temperature is above that of the thermoplastic semifinished products, and heated above the melting temperature of the thermoplastic semifinished products. After melting, the entire construction is transferred into a multipart mold which is temperature-controlled below the melting

temperature of the plastic. After the mold is closed, the polymer bubble is inflated so that the semifinished products are shaped into a hollow body having a peripheral flange.

JP 1069325 A (Patent Abstracts of Japan) discloses an extrusion blow molding method, in which an extruded, hose-shaped preform is shaped in the plasticized state using an inflatable balloon.

DE 25 04 740 A1 discloses a method for aligning a preform in a blow molding device. The method is characterized in that a balloon-shaped preform is stretched in the longitudinal direction of a blowing pin, which holds the preform, and a significant peripheral expansion of the preform during the longitudinally directed expansion is prevented.--

Page 3, cancel the two paragraphs in lines 7-19, and insert the following new paragraphs:

--The object of the present invention is to specify a method, using which acoustically effective shaped parts may be manufactured effectively and cost-effectively by shaping web-like or sheet-like semifinished products made of open-pored plastic.

In particular, undercuts are also to be manufactured easily in the shaped parts if necessary.

This object is achieved according to the present invention both by a method having the features of Claim 1 and by a method having the features of Claim 2.

Same page, amend the 3rd complete paragraph (lines 20-29), as follows:

--Using the method according to the present invention, ~~both~~ semifinished products made of open-pored thermoplastic materials, such as open-celled thermoplastic foams or thermoplastic nonwoven materials, and also semifinished products made of open-pored duroplastic materials, such as melamine resin foams, may be shaped cost-effectively into shaped parts having complex contours. In particular, the methods according to the present invention ~~allows~~ allow the manufacture of open-pored shaped parts having undercuts ~~to be manufactured~~.

On page 4, please cancel lines 11 through page 30.

On page 5, please cancel lines 1 through 16 and insert the following paragraphs instead:

By shaping simultaneously several web-like or sheet-like semifinished products made of open-pored material in the cavity by inflating the balloon or hose, the output of a device according to the present invention is increased correspondingly.

As the heating is performed parallel in time to the shaping of a preceding semifinished product, the total processing time necessary for the shaping is minimized.

Same page, amend the third full paragraph (lines 17-18), as follows:

--~~Further~~ Preferred and advantageous embodiments of the present invention are specified in the subclaims.--

Same page, amend the fifth full paragraph (lines 22-27), as follows:

--Figure 1 schematically shows a first exemplary embodiment of a device ~~according to the present invention~~ for shaping two web like

semifinished products made of open-pored thermoplastic material while the material is fed into the open forming tool.--

On page 6, amend the second full paragraph (lines 6-11), as follows:

--Figure 3 schematically shows a second exemplary embodiment of a device ~~according to the present invention~~ for shaping two web-like semifinished products made of open-pored duroplastic material as the material is fed into the open forming tool, and